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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,940	07/29/2003	Charles Hartman	200310736-1	9039
22879	7590	11/28/2005	EXAMINER	
HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			DALEY, CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2111
DATE MAILED: 11/28/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/629,940	HARTMAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christopher A. Daley	2111

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 9 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 – 4, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jeddelloh (US5935233).

3. As to claim 1, Jeddelloh discloses a configurable I/O bus architecture, comprising: a system bus interface device (Figure 2 illustrates a system bus interface device, 56); first and second I/O bus interface devices (Figure 2 also illustrates first and second I/O interface devices 86 and 88);

first and second intermediate buses (first and second intermediate busses 60 and 72); a switching device (switch device 90 of figure 2); and a steering signal; wherein: the first intermediate bus couples the system bus interface device to the first I/O bus interface device (Figure 3 illustrates where PCI request selector signal 112 determines the interfacing of first PCI target interface 86B on the first intermediate bus 60 of figure 2, COL.4, lines 35 - 55) ;

the second intermediate bus couples the system bus interface device to the switching device (Figure 3 illustrates the coupling of a second intermediate bus 72 via interface 88B and processor interface 82, the system, COL. 4, lines 35 - 55); and the switching device is operable to couple the second intermediate bus either to the first or to the second I/O bus interface device responsive to the steering signal (Switching device 90 as illustrated in figure 3 provides said functions, COL. 4, line 59 - COL. 5, line 11).

4. As to claim 2, Jeddelloh discloses the configurable I/O bus architecture: further comprising at least a first signal indicating whether an I/O device is coupled to the second I/O bus interface device (Signal 118 Second PCI Request Busy of figure 3 is said signal); and

wherein the steering signal is derived from the first signal such that the steering signal assumes a first state when the I/O device is so coupled and a second state when the I/O device is not so coupled (The steering signal the enabled combination of processor request signal 112, and first PCI request 108, that is enabled via selector . The first state is a selected state, while the second state is an unselected state, COL. 4, lines 30 - 38).

5. As to claim 3, Jeddelloh discloses the configurable I/O bus architecture, wherein: the switching device couples the second intermediate bus to the second I/O bus interface device when the steering signal assumes the first state, and couples the

second intermediate bus to the first I/O bus interface device when the steering signal assumes the second state (Both coupling configurations mentioned are covered by the permutation of configurations offered by said control switch 90 as illustrated in figure 3).

As to claim 4, Jeddelloh discloses the configurable I/O bus architecture: further comprising a second signal indicating whether the I/O device is coupled to the second I/O bus interface device (Figure 4 illustrates); and wherein the steering signal is derived from both the first and second signals using a logic gate (Steering signal at the output of logic gate 144 is derived from both first signal 152 and second signal 148, COL. 7, lines 1 - 10).

6. As to claim 9, Jeddelloh discloses the configurable I/O bus architecture of claim 1: wherein the first and second intermediate buses are rope buses (Figure 2 illustrates a rope configuration , Col. 3, lines 15 - 67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 5 – 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeddelloh in view of Alexender et al (US6510529), hereinafter Alexender.

9. As to claim 5,7 – 8, Jeddelloh does not disclose a hand-operated switch for an I/O bus;

10. However, Alexender teaches of a hand-operated switch 104 controlled by a panel button that will enable/disable the coupling of PCI bridge 108 to system controller 102.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Alexender into Jeddelloh as Alexender's teaching provides a human safety over-ride, when a fault condition arises COL. 5, lines 43 – 67.

11. As to claim 6, Jeddelloh discloses the configurable I/O bus architecture, wherein: the switching device couples the second intermediate bus to the second I/O bus interface device when the steering signal assumes the first state, and couples the second intermediate bus to the first I/O bus interface device when the steering signal assumes the second state (Figure 4 illustrates the selection of 88B which is coupled to second intermediate bus 60 via the enabling of selector 144, and the selection of coupling of second interface 88A to second interface 86B , when steering signal is in the next phase, COL. 7, lines 10 - 36).

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments, see 1, filed September 27, 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 under Neal (US6237057) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Jeddeloh (US5935233).

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher A. Daley whose telephone number is 571 272 3625. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am. - 4p m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached on 571 272 3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CAD
9/21/05


REHANA PERVEEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
11/22/05